

BANDIT PAID \$30,000
OF LOOT FOR PLANES

Carl Stieler Gives Himself
Up After Holdup Share
Vanishes in Air.

IN AVIATION SERVICE
Prisoner Was a Ground Me-
chanic and Never Per-
mitted to Fly.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
CHICAGO, Oct. 8.—In an itemized ac-
count taken from his diary, Carl
Stieler, Jr., 23 years old, the last to be
caught of the four men implicated in
the \$234,000 Standard Oil payroll hold-
up at Whiting, Ind., two years ago,
today accounted for \$45,000 of the
\$55,000 still missing. He said his
share was \$45,000 and was spent as
follows:

- One airplane \$9,000
- One airplane 4,500
- One airplane 5,500
- One airplane without motor.... 2,000

One airplane motor..... 6,250
Installing motor 600
One automobile 1,700
Organizing airplane company.. 1,500
Jewelry for wife..... 250
Living and travelling expenses. 12,400
Stieler told to-day how, after he had
obtained the \$45,000, he realized his
life's ambition—to own and fly an air-
plane.
The \$45,000 is gone. Stieler, accord-
ing to the police, engaged in an orgy
of spending along the California coast
and in Texas, Arizona and New
Mexico.
His wife, Bessie Jaslak Stieler, ac-
companied him in his flight from Chi-
cago after the robbery. She returned
with him, too, after scrubbing floors
and doing washing when the money
gave out. She asked to be locked up
with her husband, but the police
ignored her. Only Carl was arrested.
He returned to Chicago last night with
his bride. He was penniless. He went
to the home of his father and told him
he was going to surrender to the police.
The father called the town hall sta-
tion.
Young Stieler said that although he
had lived on the fat of the land for
more than two years and had owned
four airplanes, he knew always that
some day his funds would run out and
he would have to return to Chicago and
answer to the authorities for his crime.
Carl's story as told to-day revealed a
well developed case of aeromania. Un-
charted oceans of air called to him day
and night. He dreamed of flights above
the clouds, of long spinning swoops
back to the lower levels, of mad

straightaways at increased speeds. He
heard the strumming of winds through
taut wires and the throbbing of high
powered airplane motors.
Carl Stieler wanted to fly. Probably
it the military branch of the United
States Government had recognized this
four years ago it would have saved this
postal branch much trouble a little
later. But it didn't, and when it located
Carl in the aviation service it made a
ground mechanic out of him.
Stieler served at Langley Field during
the war. He turned the wires, but he
did not hear them respond to the touch
of their master virtuoso, the wind. He
cleaned the motor with reverent care,
but it was another who listened to their
lonesome beat on the highways of the
ether. Not for Carl Stieler, Jr., mecha-
nician, were the long toboggans, the
breath taking banks, the rhythmic
spirals. He was a groundling, doomed
by the implacable needs of the army to
remain one.
To-day, before he was arraigned for
the theft of \$234,000 from the United
States mails, Stieler told of how the
call of the air finally had lured him into
the ways of crime.
"I wanted to fly," he said. "That's
the rock bottom truth of the whole thing.
If I'd had even one chance to go up
while I was in the army it might have
been different."
"You can't figure how it is unless
you've been there—seeing the pilots go
up every day and sticking around on the
ground yourself. I guess I got to be
what you might call an airbug. I
couldn't get up interest in anything else.
After I got out the only thing that
seemed worth while to me was to be a
pilot, and to have a plane that I could
fly whenever I pleased."
He stopped suddenly and listened.
The visitor heard the "put-put" of an
open automobile muffler. Stieler grinned
sheepishly.
"Sounded like a plane," he said. "Say,

there's a thrill in that! A lot of people
will think I was a boob to spend a lot
of the forty-five grand I got out of this
job on airplanes. But, say, the kick I
got out of the first joy ride was worth it
remore." He stopped a moment for a
thought, then shook his head. "No, I
ain't. It was the first crooked deal I
ever pulled in my life. I know I'd be
caught sooner or later—figured on it all
about. But it was the one chance to do
what I wanted to do—fly. "I took the

chance, and now I'm ready to take my
medicine."
"Why did you finally decide to give
yourself up?" he was asked.
Stieler hesitated a moment, then an-
swered: "Well, I'll tell you. I was broke
and there was nothing doing in the
flying line. And—well, I guess I figured
I might just as well be in jail as on
the ground."
A Federal warrant for Stieler charg-
ing him with participating in the mail
robbery was issued to-day by United
States Commissioner James R. Glass.

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